

Hafa Adai!

Auto Marine owner asks community to be on lookout for stolen checks. **PAGE 2**
CUC lowers FAC rate for June. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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CPA questions viability of Rota port operator

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has yet to rule on whether to terminate its lease agreement with Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc. or not for incompliance as the last special board meeting ended in a heated exchange between board members.

Last Friday, CPA called a special board meeting to discuss a couple of matters, one of which being CPA's lease agreement with RTT.

However, not even half an

hour into the meeting, a heated exchange ensued between board members as Rota board member Steve Mesngon expressed his concerns about not

See CPA on Page 4

A man shot by police in New Caledonia has died



Police wait for the arrival of French President Emmanuel Macron at the central police station in Noumea, New Caledonia, Thursday, May 23, 2024.

PARIS (AP)—A man shot by police in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia has died of his wounds, becoming the eighth victim of weeks of unrest prompted

by changes to the voting law that Indigenous Kanaks fear will marginalize them and their push for independence.

Police told investiga-

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Rep. Julie Ogo is actively exploring grant opportunities to implement drone services for inter-island medical supply transportation.

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BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan is inviting the community to visit "Walk Down Memory Lane," its carefully curated mini museum that will feature photos and memorabilia from the hotel's early years to the present day.

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LIFE & STYLE

Dr. Michael Mosley was his own guinea pig. In the name of science, the British television host put his body to the test by ingesting tape worms, injecting snake venom and letting leeches suck his blood.

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Management staff—an office under the Office of the Governor—appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means to

See BUDGET on Page 4

fiscal year 2025 with the Office of the Governor proposing a budget of a little over \$4.7 million for the department.

Last week, DFEMS personnel and Office of Budget and

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

The kickoff for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan commemoration this Saturday will include a reenactment of the U.S. invasion on the beach in Susupe as well as a

RACQUEL FLOYD/
The medal that will be given to VIP guests from the U.S. military that will attend the event.

flyby conducted by U.S. Air Force.

Members of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan Committee, led by chair Gordon Marciano, shared some details of the celebrations yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office. Marciano was joined by KKMP's Gary Sword,

See BATTLE on Page 4

\$4.7M budget proposed for DFEMS

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services could see an over \$200,000 reduction in its

Management staff—an office under the Office of the Governor—appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means to

See BUDGET on Page 4

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Local

Auto Marine owner asks community to be on lookout for stolen checks

By CHRYSAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

A concerned business owner is asking the community to be aware and very careful when cashing in checks as there are a number of them in circulation that have been stolen.

In a conversation with business owner Adonis Santos last Monday, he told the media that his shop, Auto Marine in Lower Base, Puerto Rico, had been the target of not one but two burglaries, and both times, aside from valuables taken, the thieves had specifically aimed for the company's checkbooks.

"Twice they already burglarized our office, and they took a lot of company checks. There's Auto Marine, Max Marine, AM Machine Shop, and Aquaville. So, I just want to address to the community that if somebody is changing these checks, please be aware that this are stolen checks," said Santos.

Santos told the media that the first break-in occurred on April 14 and the second on May 25 this year. Both break-



CHRYSAL MARINO

Pictured here is the front door of the Auto Marine shop in Lower Base, Puerto Rico, which had been targeted twice by thieves.

ins happened at night with entries made at the front door after the thieves used a bolt cutter to bypass the locks and chains. Along with the numerous checks, the thieves also took the company's typewriter, four underwater cameras, a printer and copy machine, and several power tools.

Even more interesting, the thieves also grabbed several paper documents,

including Santos' captain license. He shared that it may have been the reference to forge his signature.

On the bright side, Santos shared that due to a concerned citizen they were able to recover several of the missing items like the typewriter, several of the stolen documents, his captain's license, and some of the checks from their companies. He also shared his

gratitude toward the Department of Public Safety, as DPS has been not only very helpful, but continue to search for the check thieves.

He shared that there are several leads but as it is an ongoing investigation, he was not able to disclose all the details. What he did share was they were able to locate five of the checks, which unfortunately have already been cashed,



CHRYSAL MARINO

A underwater camera like this was stolen from the Auto Marine shop in Lower Base, Puerto Rico.



CHRYSAL MARINO

This typewriter, stolen and used to designate the stolen checks, was returned to Auto Marine shop owner Adonis Santos by a concerned citizen just days after the burglary.

at an estimated amount of \$3,500. He shared that DPS is currently looking into the names listed as the checks' recipients, and have already pinned one suspect.

His message to community members and business partners is, "I just want to make

aware the businesses that are cashing checks, to make sure that the checks are good...they can call us at (670) 286-1029 or at (670) 233-2916 to verify if the check is good or not. The company name is Auto Marine Inc., Aquaville Inc., Max Marine, and AM Machine Shop."



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WOMEN LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST DIALOGUE

The Spring 2024 Women Leadership Breakfast Dialogue was held recently on Saipan with Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Palau Richelle Turner. From left, Australian Embassy to the Republic of Palau staff Lila Ucheliou Demei, Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Marian DLG. Tudela, Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council vice chair Tonie M. Tudela, Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council secretary Carmen C. Pangelinan, Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Turner, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), and Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC lowers FAC rate for June

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recently lowered its Fuel Adjustment Charge just in time for summer when students are home for most of the day.

Last May 29, CUC announced that effective June 1, due to a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices, a reduction of the FAC will be implemented.

"CUC been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices which may affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge," said CUC.

Pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is required to adjust (increase or decrease) the FAC pass-through rate when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

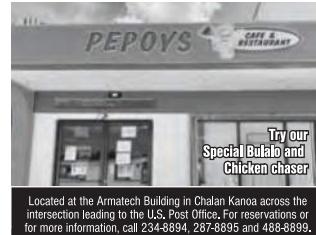
As a result, the CNMI FAC rate has gone down by 2.23 cents per kWh, from \$0.26469 to \$0.24173 per kWh.

In an interview with CUC's Betty Terlaje, she said the decrease in the CNMI's FAC comes just in time for the summer when students are home most of the day.

"The FAC rate went down, surprisingly. The recent drop is great for our customers especially now since school is out and children are home as this means usage will go up for customers. The rates went down because rates we get from Mobil, when we factored it in to our formula, dropped the rate down. We hadn't seen a change in FAC rates for the last few months," she said.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related

expenses. This base rate has not increased since April 2014.



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DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB24-GOV/OGM-42400098

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 1301, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
CNMI GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
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WIN ME

UOG appoints new associate director for Land Grant research

Frank A. Camacho has been named the new interim associate director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center under the College of Natural & Applied Sciences at the University of Guam, effective May 27. The center is the scientific research arm of the university's Land Grant and receives federal funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate improvements to food



Camacho

production and agribusiness for the region.

"A key part of UOG's Land Grant mission is research—exploring solutions and improvements in our ability to grow food locally and sustainably. We welcome Dr. Camacho, as a skilled scientist and collaborative leader, in guiding our research endeavors in this increasingly critical area," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez.

CPA

From page 1

receiving copies of CPA communications regarding Rota.

Mesngon also expressed his hesitance to decide on whether to terminate RTT's lease or not stating that that RTT's president, former senator Victor B. Hocog, has sent the CPA board a written request for an extension of the notice of default.

CPA board chair Jose C. Ayuyu, for his part, stated if RTT is not financially sound, they should be honest to come to the board and say, they can no longer do the job.

"The company really needs to be honest to itself. You know, if they can do that job or if they cannot do the job. Everyone on Rota depends on ship deliveries. If shippers cannot bring in food from Saipan through the seaport, that is unacceptable," he said.

If you don't have the money and resources, be a gentleman enough to say, 'I'm sorry I'm not going to accept the con-

tract to run the port because I don't have the resources,'" Ayuyu added.

After the heated exchange, CPA went into a long recess that ended in the entire board meeting being cancelled.

CPA has yet to announce the next special board meeting.

RTT and CPA entered into a lease agreement in 1996, allowing the local stevedoring company exclusive use of the seaport for shipping and stevedoring operation.

The annual rental fee was \$50,000 per year plus 5% of the company's gross revenue.

In 2009, the lease agreement was amended, replacing the annual rental fee plus 5% of gross revenues with a monthly rent of 50 cents per revenue ton transacted.

Last April 26, the CPA board gave RTT 30 days to correct the following lease contract violations: failure to remove damaged equipment, failure to maintain operable crane, and failure to maintain a CNMI business license.

RTT's deadline was on May 26, 2024.

Camacho replaces Adrian Ares, who has held the position since 2018, and will work under the center's director and the dean of CNAS, Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, and alongside the interim associate director of extension, L. Robert Barber Jr., and interim associate dean of instruction, Maika Vuki.

"Dr. Camacho is well-suited to guide our Land Grant research," Leon Guerrero said. "As a biologist, he brings a natural curiosity for our island environment and how we can best utilize and sustain our land for the health of our communities."

Camacho has been faculty

in UOG's Biology Program since August 2008, advancing in rank from assistant professor to associate professor and, in April this year, to full professor. He is a two-time alumnus of UOG, having earned his bachelor's and master's in biology in 1994 and 1997, respectively. He earned his doctorate in biology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2005.

As interim associate director, Camacho will be reviewing and approving faculty research proposals, facilitating research projects, and overseeing operations at the WPTRC facilities. These include

the Yigo, Inarajan, and Ija agricultural experiment stations; Triton Farm; the Guam Aquaculture Development & Training Center, also known as the Fadian hatchery; and the CNAS Aquapark.

"I am especially excited to work with the faculty, staff, and students of WPTRC," he said. "These individuals are the backbone of the experiment station and are an amazingly talented core of scientists and personnel."

Camacho has a background in ecological research and statistical analysis and a personal research portfolio that includes awards from

USDA Hatch, the National Institutes of Health, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and the Royal Society of New Zealand. He has served as a research mentor to Pacific islander and Native American students in Costa Rica and is the research experiences coordinator for the Islands of Opportunity Alliance of the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation.

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MAN

From page 1

tors that armed men rammed a pickup truck into a rental car carrying gendarmes and opened fire Monday on the road between the capital Noumea and the territory's international airport. Two men were wounded when the gendarmes returned fire, according to a statement from the territory's prosecutor.

One of the men, wounded in the head by a "ballistic projectile," died Friday, prosecutor Yves Dupas said Saturday. He

ordered an autopsy of the dead man, who was 26.

The eight dead since violence erupted in mid-May in New Caledonia, which is 10 time zones and more than 33,000 kilometers (20,000 miles) from Paris, include two police officers.

The other man hit by gunfire on Monday was wounded in the arm. While taking the men to the hospital, police said they were disrupted by protesters at roadblocks and pelted with stones, according to Dupas.

Decades of tensions between those seeking inde-

pendence and those loyal to France flared in response to attempts by French President Emmanuel Macron's government to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia.

Pro-independence parties and Kanak leaders fear the voting legislation will benefit pro-France politicians in New Caledonia and further marginalize Kanaks, who have faced sharp economic disparities and decades of discrimination.

France rushed hundreds of troop reinforcements to the territory in May help police quell the revolt, which in-

cluded shootings, clashes, looting and arson. Both sides of New Caledonia's bitter divide erected barricades, either to revolt against authorities or to protect their homes and properties.

Territorial authorities have extended an overnight curfew across the archipelago until June 17.

New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III, Napoleon's nephew and heir. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.

and share stories of their fathers," he said.

The final program of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan commemoration will be announced in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Part of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan commemoration is Ride Into History, which are in collaboration with the American Memorial Park. Participants of Ride Into History will be able to learn more about the battles that took place on Saipan and participants will be able to go through World War II sites. The tours will take place on June 6, 8, and 22.

BATTLE

From page 1

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho, and Camacho's chief of staff Priscilla Iakopo.

"The goal of the celebration is to educate children about what occurred 80 years ago. The lineup this coming Saturday, beginning 8:30am is there will be a reenactment at the military memorial at the Civic Center Beach next to the da'ok tree. Then by 9 o'clock or 9:30am, we should get down to the American Memorial Park. Just north of the Garapan Fire Station, we're

going to march down to the Court of Honor at that time. By 10 o'clock, there's going to be a flyby before the [singing of the] national anthems," said Camacho.

He added that we should be expecting a lot of top rank military personnel to come in and that the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan ceremony will have about six speakers who will talk about World War II.

"We are inviting all those local veterans that joined the military for four, eight, or 20 years to revisit their uniform and wear their uniform. We also want to let our young generation know that they were in

the military for all those years. It's good to entice them, you know about the military," added Camacho.

A medal was also presented by the committee to Gordon that will be given to VIPs in the U.S. military that will attend this coming Saturday's 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan commemoration.

"On that day, what's going to happen is several veterans are coming in. We have Steven McLeod, who has two other veterans' sons that are coming in. Their fathers landed on Blue Beach right next to Townhouse, and then they're here to do to the reenactment

of equipment, maintenance, and personnel.

"We will use funds to continue to bring in instructors from Guam every two years to recertify our instructors for the amount of \$3,000. To maintain classrooms and cycle training for a total of \$12,000. Pay annual reoccurring contract service to collect data for billing for \$60,000 amount. Pay monthly professional services of DFEMS medical director not more than 67 hours or \$10,000 per month. Pay for campaigns for \$10,000. Operation and maintenance cost at a total of \$644,000 annually and general supplies for \$200,000. Augment fire and civilian employee salaries,

purchase firearms and ammunition, and maintain certification for \$20,000. We will pay for fuel at \$17,000 a month, water and sewer at \$7,000 a month, utilities at \$15,000 a month and outreach programs for \$15,000," he said.

Pua said DFEMS will continue to strive to provide the best service possible to the communities of the CNMI even with limited resources.

"We are linked with the community and they rate us based on the service they receive. We want to give the communities of the CNMI the best services we can with the limited resources we have. We [hope] to work as a team with [the Legislature]," he said.

BUDGET

From page 1

discuss the department's fiscal year 2025 budget.

According to the budget proposed for DFEMS, when compared to last fiscal year's budget, DFEMS is expected to see an over \$260,000 reduction in its budget this coming fiscal year with a proposed budget of a little over \$4.7 million.

However, DFEMS submitted a budget request of \$6.1 million.

When compared to the department's initial proposal, the budget proposed by the Office of the Governor is about a \$1.4-million cut.

DFEMS Commissioner Juan Pua shared its spending plan for fiscal year 2025 with most of its revolving funds set to be used for the purchase of resources like emergency response vehicles and equipment.

"Our spending plan... is to purchase two new rescue units for north and south coverage for a total amount of \$300,000 each...the purchase 14 automated external defibrillators for a total of \$27,000 for the entire CNMI...the purchase of fire engines that will be stationed in Susupe for \$700,000, [and] the purchase of a rapid response unit for \$200,000," he said.

In addition, Pua shared that DFEMS intends to spend revolving funds on maintenance

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on June 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes from May 6, 2024
- II. Public Comment (s)
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
- IV. Administrator's Report
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - A. None
- VII. New Business
 - 1. Fall 2024 Application Status
 - 2. Status of Contract under Professional Services
 - 3. Compliance Officer Position
 - 4. Status of Compliance/Loans/Repayment
 - 5. Professional Development Training
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Miscellaneous Matters
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

/s/ Ms. Kaelani B. Dempan- Chairwoman, Board of SHEFA Directors

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E-mail: saipanshefa@gmail.com • Website: www.saipanshefa.com

EPA requires safety improvements at chlorine gas facility on Saipan

SAN FRANCISCO, California—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a compliance agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to resolve claims of Clean Air Act violations at its bulk chlorine storage site in Saipan.

Under this agreement, within one year the CUC must meet requirements including updating the facility's Risk Management Plan and addressing all areas of concern identified through prior EPA inspections.

"The CUC needs improvements in its plan for managing potential chemical accidents, to both prevent dangerous chlorine releases and—should an accident happen—be in a position to effectively respond," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional administrator Martha Guzman. "Today's action will safeguard public health, protecting nearby residents and businesses against potential releases of a very dangerous chemical."

The storage site was constructed in 2018 in response to a 2009 Stipulated Order to ensure the CUC's wastewater and drinking water systems were compliant with the Clean Water Act.

The facility stores over

2,500 lbs. of chlorine gas in 150-lb. metal cylinders that are used for water treatment. Facilities that store 2,500 lbs. or more of chlorine must comply with Risk Management Program requirements.

EPA conducted two inspections, one in 2021 and one in 2023, that identified several areas of concern. These included, but were not limited to, failure to:

- Register the new storage site's Risk Management Plan with EPA and update the plan once the facility was operational.

- Maintain the storage site adequately, to include ensuring effective cooling so that the chlorine was stored correctly and putting into place sealed doors to secure chlorine during an accidental release.

- Train personnel on proper use of the chlorine emergency kits and coordinate emergency response with local responders to help minimize releases if they do occur.

- Calibrate and fix chlorine sensors.

- Test effectiveness of the scrubber media used to filter chlorine during an accidental release.

Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act requires development and implementation of RMPs

to address risks from accidental releases of regulated toxic substances, including chlorine. Chlorine is a gas with a very irritating odor used in the production of thousands of products and for water disinfection. Exposure to low levels of chlorine can result in nose, throat, and eye irritation. At higher levels, breathing chlorine gas may result in changes in breathing rate and coughing, lung damage and potentially even death.

Legally mandated RMPs must identify the potential effects of a chemical accident, steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and emergency response procedures should an accident occur. These plans also provide valuable information to local emergency response personnel to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies in their community.

Read more about the Clean Air Act Section 112 (r) Risk Management Program Rule.

Learn about the National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative on reducing risks of accidental releases at industrial and chemical facilities.

Learn about EPA's Pacific Southwest Region. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and X. (PR)



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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-024

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024.** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-026

CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION & GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent's obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Caitlin Clark's main 'privilege' is one of talent. She must not be allowed to become a target for rule-breakers

Whoopi Goldberg and Sunny Hostin of "The View" have not been helping the Women's National Basketball Association nor its most famous star, Caitlin Clark. Nor have they been doing right by the Chicago Sky's Chennedy Carter or any of the other fine athletes deservedly and belatedly getting the attention they have long deserved.

"I do think there is a thing called pretty privilege," Hostin said May 23 on the talk show, suggesting there is more to Clark's fame and paycheck than her extraordinary record at the University of Iowa. "There is a thing called white privilege. There is a thing called tall privilege."

Sure. When it comes to the game of basketball, though, all of those are eclipsed by talent privilege, which is why fans shell out the big bucks to watch professional games played by women and men, of all races, rather than just standing court-side at the local park. Moreover, those who have talent privilege, just like "pretty privilege," "white privilege" and "tall privilege," cannot do a darn thing about their gifts, beyond being humble, appreciative of their fans and family, and paying forward their good fortune.

For Clark on Saturday, all of those alleged privileges turned into an undeserved target on her back.

The foul committed by Chicago Sky guard Chennedy Carter was egregious. Outside of a sporting contest, it would have been seen as an assault. Even within a sporting context, it was bad: before the ball even was inbounded, Carter came up from behind Clark, shoving her at the hip and knocking her over. Lip readers simultaneously construed a five-letter epithet dancing on the Sky player's lips. She should have been ejected from the game.

Let's be clear. Clark has done nothing to deserve this other than bringing attention to her sport and playing it superbly well. All of her public pronouncements have been supportive of her sport, her fellow players and her many mentors and idols (Black and white). A large influx of fans are tuning into the sport for the first time, mainly due to the Clark effect (although Sky rookie Angel Reese and some others are drawing notice as well). Sure, players on competing teams have no obligation to go easy on Clark, and you might argue that some jealousy is inevitable, but the Saturday incident went beyond any of that, especially since Carter's teammate Reese appeared to applaud the foul.

None other than Charles Barkley, America's unofficial secretary of common sense, called out the league's players not named Caitlin Clark two weeks ago, well before Saturday. "Y'all should be thanking that girl for getting y'all ... private charters," he said. "All the money and visibility she's bringing

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AS FAR AS
MAN-MADE
MONSTERS GO,
YOU'RE NO LONGER
THE SCARIEST.

OHIO COMPANY
PLANS TO SELL
FLAMETHROWING
ROBOT DOGS
TO THE PUBLIC



Infrastructure requires money. More toll roads are the way

Physical infrastructure—highways, bridges, ports, internet servers, potable water—provides the backbone of an economy, even in an increasingly digital and virtual world. Most people recognize that it makes the nation more competitive and efficient and support investment in these projects. That backing begins to fade when it comes down to who's going to pay for it and in whose backyard it will end up.

President Joe Biden's administration has supercharged the push to improve and expand U.S. infrastructure with the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and to a lesser extent the green-economy bill and the Chips and Science Act.

Everyone is eager to tap into the infrastructure bonanza, and the investment money is already moving out the door at a good pace, with 56,000 projects funded with \$454 billion, including 9,000 bridges and 165,000 miles of road, according to the White House. State and local authorities are handling 90% of the funding allocation, which helps pinpoint the most pressing needs.

Money from the infrastructure act has the greatest impact for works that are critical yet unlikely to be financed by local budgets or private companies, such as replacing lead pipes in the water system and expanding broadband to rural areas. Still, Brightline West, a high-speed rail line that intends to connect Las Vegas with the outskirts of Los Angeles, received \$3 billion. Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate leader who rounded up support for the infrastructure bill, made sure his home state of Kentucky benefited with a \$1.4 billion grant to upgrade a bridge across the Ohio river that links Kentucky and Ohio near Cincinnati. All federal taxpayers are picking up the tab for these projects.

The fairest way to obtain money for many infrastructure projects is to get it directly from the users. One good example is the gasoline tax, which replenishes the Highway Trust Fund. Unfortunately, there's no political will to lift it from 18.4 cents a gallon, where it has sat since the last increase in 1993.

Two of the best alternatives for user-paid infrastructure are toll roads and variable-fee express lanes. States with fast growing populations, including Georgia, Florida and Texas, are embracing toll projects because they can't wait for federal funding to expand traffic capacity. These highways shouldn't be funded with infrastructure act money, and it just so happens that private capital is eager to invest in solid transportation projects. Booming cities such as Atlanta, Nashville, Dallas and others must stay ahead on infrastructure or face congestion that reduces the quality of life, which eventually kills the boom.

Ferrovial SE, a Madrid-based company that just listed on the Nasdaq, is one of those companies eager to take the risk of financing and building toll projects. The company wants to ride the U.S. infrastructure boom, Chief Executive Officer Ignacio Madridejos said, and is selling some of its projects around the

By THOMAS BLACK

Bloomberg Opinion

Thomas Black is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist writing about the industrial and transportation sectors. He was previously a Bloomberg News reporter covering logistics, manufacturing and private aviation.



world, including a stake in Heathrow Airport, as part of its new focus on North America. Toll roads and airports are of keen interest for the company, he said.

The Spanish company has had both good and bad experiences with tolled infrastructure in the U.S., providing insight and valuable lessons. Ferrovial lost all of its equity in a 41-mile stretch of tolled highway between Austin and San Antonio in Texas. State Highway 130, which is probably most famous for its 85-mile-an-hour top speed limit, opened in 2012 and went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2016 because the traffic didn't meet the company's estimates. While this was a misstep and the section that Ferrovial built is now publicly owned, the toll highway still exists and now has more traffic as Austin's urban sprawl reaches it, including Tesla Inc.'s new gigafactory and headquarters.

The risk for companies is both on the traffic estimates and construction, where delays and cost overruns can bite into profit, Madridejos said. "In the beginning, we learned by making mistakes," he said. "Now we have a much better understanding of the revenues, traffic and how the users behave."

Ferrovial had more success expanding Interstate Highway 35, which cuts through Dallas and surrounding suburbs. The company added express lanes, which increased capacity while maintaining a free option for motorists. The charge for the express lanes varies depending on the traffic, providing a choice for drivers who are willing to pay to travel faster. The traffic on these express lanes has surpassed the company's estimates. There were 22 express toll lane ventures in the U.S. at the end of 2019, according to the Department of Transportation, including on Interstate 95 in Virginia and Florida. North Carolina converted its high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, which didn't encourage carpooling as expected, to tolled express lanes on I-77. Georgia plans to build express lanes along 16 miles of SR 400 in Atlanta, and Tennessee wants to add optional toll lanes on highways around Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

"The winners will be those that have the infrastructure," Ma

See MONEY on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Clarifying my stance on tourism and economic diversification

I have seen a few reactions to my previous opinion piece. I must address the misinformation in some of them and clarify my stance on tourism and economic diversification in the CNMI.

Since the governor took office in 2023, he has not enacted any laws or regulations that prevent tourists from China from visiting the CNMI legally. The accusations that the governor is against Chinese tourism or that he has actively stopped Chinese tourists from coming to our islands are false and misleading. These claims detract from the real issues and create unnecessary division within our community.

The governor has welcomed Chinese tourists to the CNMI, provided they come through legal channels. His administration advocates for a balanced approach that avoids over-reliance on any single tourism market. This strategy is not about rejecting Chinese tourists but ensuring our economy is resilient and diversified enough to withstand external shocks.

The COVID-19 pandemic and current geopolitical factors have starkly illustrated how vulnerable our tourism industry can be to external factors beyond our control. It is only prudent to learn from these experiences and make strategic adjustments to

CAITLIN

From page 6

to the WNBA. Don't be petty like dudes. What she's accomplished—give her her flowers. Stop being petty all you women out there."

Games can get heated, and if Carter had apologized and said some version of, look, I'm competitive and I got carried away, we'd be more sympathetic. But, in fact, she doubled down on social media, effectively deriding Clark as nothing but a 3-point shooter. At the news conference after the game, Carter said, in answer to a softball request to explain what happened with Clark, "I ain't answering no Caitlin Clark questions," as if she were not under any obligation to do so when, in fact, she should have offered an apology. When at least one reporter asked to speak to Reese and she declined, Reese was fined \$1,000 by the league and the Sky was fined an additional \$5,000 for violating media availability rules. Sky coach Teresa Weatherspoon apologized on Carter's behalf Monday afternoon. Not before time.

On Sunday, when the Indiana Fever played again in New York, all of this appeared to be having an effect on Clark, who looked to be off her game. Who would not be? She must be wishing she were back in Iowa City.

On Monday, Goldberg indefensively defended Carter on "The View" with "Get over yourselves, they're athletes."

They also are human beings and, in Clark's case, a rookie player on whose shoulder rests more pressure than most if not all other players in the league are feeling. She has to compete on her own merits, but basketball has rules and if the WNBA chews her up and spits her out because it is too afraid of being called racist to protect her from racially tinged animosity, or indeed from fouls such as the one Carter committed, it will have done a huge disservice to its own game, now at a major inflection point, thanks in no small measure to, yes, Clark. It's also incumbent among the experienced WNBA players to nip this nonsense in the bud, before it's too late.

As for Goldberg and Hostin? Enough with the privilege talk and get-over-it nonsense and start calling this behavior out for what everyone could see it to be.

Something not to be repeated.

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MONEY

From page 6

drídejos said. "With today's fiscal deficits, it will be difficult to cover these needs with public funding."

Expect more of these toll road and express lane projects as states seek options to keep their infrastructure ahead of growth without breaking their transportation budgets or waiting for Congress to pass another huge infrastructure bill.

ensure the long-term stability and resilience of our economy. The governor's focus is on diversifying our tourist market and developing new industries that are not solely dependent on tourism. This includes making necessary infrastructure upgrades and encouraging hotel and business groups to refine and enhance their offerings.

It is essential to allocate our limited resources wisely to avoid repeating past mistakes. By doing so, we can hedge against potential geopolitical risks that could disrupt the China tourism market once again.

The "China or Bust" mentality is not sustainable for the future of the CNMI and is extremely detrimental to our recovery. We must recognize that some local groups and individuals, influenced by decades of interaction with the PRC, may find this pivot uncomfortable.

Nevertheless, it is sound business sense to adapt and seek more stable and diverse sources of economic growth. We are all aware that the cessation of Chinese tourists visiting the CNMI occurred under the previous administration. Blaming the current administration for this issue is both unfair and inaccurate. The governor's goal is to build a robust and resilient economy capable of withstanding external shocks, rather than being overly dependent on any single market.

The administration is committed to welcoming tourists from China legally while also pursuing a diversified and sustainable economic strategy. The focus on infrastructure improvements and product refinement aims to benefit all residents and businesses in the CNMI, ensuring a prosperous future less vulnerable to external disruptions.

Whether they realize it or not, groups like HANMI and the Chamber appear more focused on attempting to push PRC messaging from our government than on finding sustainable solutions to our economic challenges. This aligns with the broader strategies I discussed in my initial piece, where certain local influencers are co-opted into single-mindedly promoting PRC solutions without critically assessing their

June 14 is Flag Day

Is SCOTUS Justice flagging?

(An "Appeal To Heaven or Hell?")

The U.S. flag code which is not legally enforceable says that the flag is not to be inverted 'except as a signal of dire distress in instance of extreme danger to life or property.' At SCOTUS Justice Samuel Alito's holiday home on 01/17/2021, not long after the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol building, a flag with the banner "Appeal To Heaven" was flown and was also carried by the insurrectionists along with Confederate and pro Trump flags as they stormed the Capitol Building. The U.S. Congress was validating the 2016 election votes. Is SCOTUS justice flagging? SCOTUS Samuel Alito says his wife hung an American flag outside his home upside down because she was mad at a neighbor. The upside down 'distress' flag was flown for a number of days. Is the SCOTUS losing honor and respect as the supreme arbiter of the laws of our land? What do the billionaire businessmen who treat them to lavish boat trips in Indonesia, resort trips to Alaska, fly them on private jets, tickets for sports events, buy houses and extravagant RVs for them have to gain? Notice some of the more egregious exposures of leaning towards Christian nationalism and 'Kraken' seems dumped on their (Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito's) respective spouses.

Is SCOTUS justice flagging? Who is the most important one bragging?

POTUS 45 about the *Roe v. Wade* decision as he insults and perpetuates negativity on women's rights, voting rights, and global climate warming. Don't the US Justice Dept. and the FBI need to investigate his lies and issue more indictments with such critical issues constantly nagging? And daily sycophantic GOP Congress ethics and moral standards sagging. Meanwhile POTUS 45s 2024 campaign has concerned educators, doctors, lawyers, judges, scientists, and concerned citizens all gagging. Now the Capitol Hill police, and security personnel around courthouses,

By GLEN HUNTER

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Glen Hunter is the special assistant Broadband Policy Development.



long-term impact on our community.

It appears that not only are these individuals and groups solely focused on promoting the "China as the only solution" narrative but they may even be actively harming any other possible economic recovery solution. That is incredibly hard to watch. They will not champion or advocate any non-China-focused effort and will undermine and vilify those attempting to secure new markets or standup new industries. Their underlying premise is not the betterment of the CNMI but the pro-PRC propaganda that they have been given marching orders to produce at all costs. The stakes in the region are high and sadly the true motivation for those willing to sacrifice our economic recovery is much larger than our little community.

The administration's approach, on the other hand, is rooted in a clear understanding of the challenges we face and a commitment to making strategic decisions that will ensure the long-term prosperity of the CNMI. These efforts are geared toward creating a balanced, diversified economy that can withstand future uncertainties. All stakeholders need to come together in support of these efforts rather than perpetuating misconceptions that only serve to divide our community.

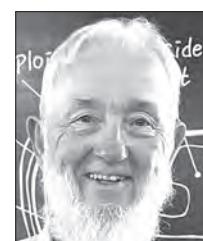
By embracing a more balanced and diversified economic strategy, we can ensure a more stable and prosperous future for all residents of the CNMI. Let us work together to build an economy that is resilient, inclusive, and capable of withstanding whatever challenges may come our way.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



and convention sites are putting up barricades and sandbagging. Prosecutors and defense attorneys for the upcoming Georgia state and Federal Trump trials are agog with their counselor's tongues wagging. Does more vocal criticism of Trump's affinity for murderous dictators like Vladimir Putin, and Kim Il Sung seem to be somewhat lagging?

Fealty? Flying flags over Alito's homes

"...gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."—excerpt, the U.S. Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key, 09/14/1814.

American fealty to the flag/do we approve abuse of the flag

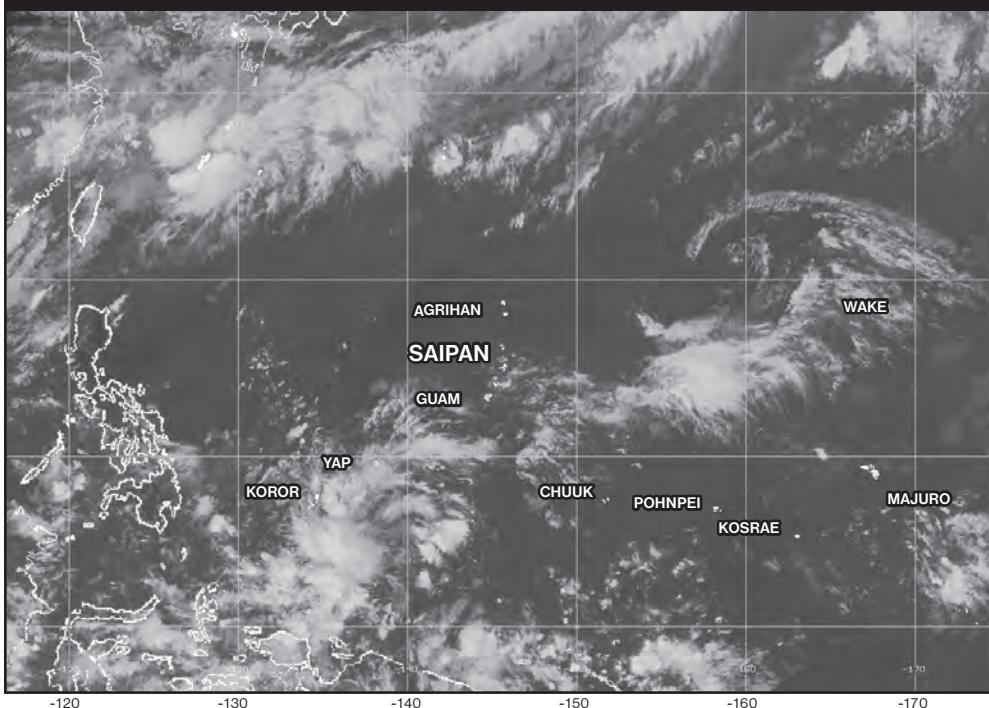
SCOTUS refusals? SCOTUS bamboozles? SCOTUS recusals? SCOTUS democracy seems leaning right towards plutocracy SCOTUS little fealty to basic existent moral and ethical guidelines SCOTUS strife/two blame their wife/ we read and hear their whines SCOTUS fealty/multi millions of dollars in gifts a reality SCOTUS the American flag was not flown to show distress SCOTUS "Appeal To Heaven" flag supports rioters more or less SCOTUS flag scandal drags as the nation's trust sags SCOTUS changing story more excuses and abuses from Alito SCOTUS Alito where did his impartial fairness to law go SCOTUS do flags over homes demonstrate democracy zones American fealty to the flag/ do we approve abuse of the flag.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of heavy showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of heavy showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87°	78°	87°	77°	88°
77°	88°	77°	88°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:14 AM TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery indicates moderate trades bringing in unsettled weather to the region for the next few hours. Recent altimetry passes and Rittidian buoy indicate seas are 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA		
	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:40 AM	11:33 PM	-
Thursday	11:28 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:08 AM	12:14 PM
Saturday	-	12:40 AM	1:00 PM
Sunday	-	1:13 AM	1:45 PM

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AROUND THE GLOBE

	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Fair	95° / 69°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Honolulu	Fair	82° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 62°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	94° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	74° / 62°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 67°
Paris	Sunny	64° / 49°
Busan	Showers	73° / 66°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 65°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny	87° / 81°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 69°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	82° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:59 AM	High Tide	1.94
6:35 AM	Low Tide	1.40
10:30 AM	High Tide	1.68
6:03 PM	Low Tide	0.25

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024

DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7				
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily				
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7				
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-GUAM					
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam				
UA184/174	11:50PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	UA184/174	11:50PM	3:10PM+1	2, 5 via Guam				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily				
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily				
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily				
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)						INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN					
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily				
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily				
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7				
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024											
SAIPAN TO ROTA											
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY						
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily						

Ogo explores grants for drone medical supply transportation service to Rota

ROTA—Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) is actively exploring grant opportunities to enhance the livelihood of the people of Rota through innovative solutions. One of the key initiatives she is focusing on is the implementation of drone services for inter-island medical supply transportation.

The current limitations of flights between islands have posed significant challenges in the timely delivery of essential medical supplies. To address this issue, Ogo is proposing a grant that would support the introduction of drone services capable of transporting medical supplies

instantly across the islands. This groundbreaking proposal includes several crucial components:

- Pilot trainees: The grant will fund the training of local pilots to operate the drones, ensuring the development of local expertise and job creation.
- Landing pads: Con-

struction of specialized landing pads on all islands to facilitate safe and efficient drone operations.

- Operational costs: The grant will cover the initial operational costs to jump-start the service, ensuring its sustainability and effectiveness from the outset.

“Access to timely medical supplies is a matter of life and death,” said Ogo. “By leveraging drone technology, we can ensure that our residents receive the critical care they need without delay. This initiative not only addresses a pressing healthcare challenge but also provides new opportunities for our local workforce.”

In addition to improving the speed and reliability of

medical supply delivery, Ogo hopes that the introduction of this drone service will help make medication more affordable for residents. By reducing transportation costs and ensuring a steady supply of medical goods, this service aims to lower overall medication expenses for the people of Rota.

The proposed drone service aims to significantly improve the healthcare infrastructure of Rota and surrounding islands, ensuring that medical supplies reach their destinations swiftly and efficiently. This innovative approach is expected

to set a precedent for other remote communities facing similar challenges.

Ogo’s commitment to exploring innovative solutions and securing the necessary funding underscores her dedication to improving the quality of life for her constituents. She continues to work tirelessly to bring positive change and sustainable development to Rota.

For more information about Ogo’s initiatives and to stay updated on her latest projects, visit her official Facebook page www.facebook.com/repjulieogo. (PR)

FOA Youth Theater presents 'Alice in Wonderland'

The Friends of the Arts is sponsoring its Youth Theatre in presenting the CNMI International Thespian Team, featuring their production of Jason Pizzaro’s “Alice in Wonderland” with additional presentations of thespian individual performances, technical support skills, and film productions.

The production will be presented today, June 12, at the Marianas High School Cafetorium. Doors will open at 6pm. Admission will be by donation in support of the upcoming trip by the T CNMI International Thespian Team to participate in the International Thespian Festival.

This family entertainment presentation marks the fourth production in this year’s Youth Theatre project and will feature thespians from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, and Mount Carmel School.

The “Alice in Wonderland” production has been selected to participate in the International Thespian Festival’s Chapter Select Showcase. Also, individual students will be performing in competition for adjudication. At the festival, the students and their

chaperones will be attending workshops and attending numerous theatrical productions. The festival will be held at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana from June 23 to June 28.

The Friends of the Arts would like to thank the generous sponsors who make this production possible: Bridge Capital, IT&E, KLCarr Construction, Brabu Pharmacy, Dental Care, Toothworks Dental Clinic, PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Variety, Angil Design, Paradise Dental Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, JET Reality and J’s Restaurant, Yaong Corp., TransAmerica Saipan, Paradise Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Thompson Law Office, National Office Supply, and HR Support, CNMI. Without their assistance events such as this would not be possible.

The Friends of the Arts invites the community to come and enjoy this special opportunity and an evening of youthful talent

“Alice In Wonderland” is produced with the permission of “Playscripts Inc.” a member of “Broadway Licensing Global.” (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8th, 2024
TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

RFP24-CHCC/FINANCE-015
"SINGLE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING 2022, 2023 & 2024"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

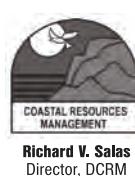
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a meeting of the CRM Agency Officials will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 2:30PM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315> or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. May 29, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹
- III. REPORTS
 - a. Chair’s Report
 - b. Executive Director’s Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Consulting Agreement - Amerine Gaming Enterprises
 - b. ED Recommendation No. 2024-06
 - c. Black Jack Variation - 6 to 5 Black Jack
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²
- VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAZARD MITIGATION
GRANT PROGRAM**

JUAN A. SABLON BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 |

670.664.2410 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project RFP24-GOV-42400065

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMP), through the Governor’s Authorized Representative (collectively, “Commonwealth”) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to deliver, supply, and install a generator set and renovate the existing generator house at the HOPE Recovery Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIA) §70-30-3-725 Gratitudes and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The RFP Package will be available in digital format beginning Wednesday, **June 12, 2024**, and may be requested by emailing crsablun@omb.gov.mp or rpangelinan@omb.gov.mp, or online at the Vendor Self Service portal at <https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss>. A hard copy will be available at the HMP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan during regular working hours. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the HOPE Recovery Center in Marpi conference room at **9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2024**.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Office attn: Leona Deleon Guerrero, Project Manager, via email at ldgguerrero@omb.gov.mp no later than **July 5, 2024**, by 4:30p.m. All questions and answers shall be shared with prospective proposers.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 25 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3. Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4. Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$100.00/day.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP24-GOV-42400065 - HOPE Recovery Center Generator and Generator House Project**.” For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, located at Building No. 1301 Ascension Dr. Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 no later than **09:30 a.m. ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **09:30 a.m., ChST, Friday, July 12, 2024**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidinten@doe.gov.mp.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **9:30 a.m., ChST, July 12, 2024**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. Box 10008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the proposal documents must be received no later than **July 23, 2024**. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor’s Authorized Representative

Brian S. Nicholas, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL, FOREVER LOVED

† **Maria**
Deleon Guerrero
Quichocho Cruz

Loving known as “Kita” or “Lia”

August 22, 1934 - June 02, 2024

Maria, passed away on Sunday, June 02, 2024 at the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation, at the age of 89 years old. Maria was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and always puts God and her family first. She will be remembered for her compassion, strength, and unwavering love. Her presence brought light and joy to all who knew her, and her memories will forever live in the hearts of her family and friends. In her new eternal life, †Maria now joins her **husband, †Pedro Lizama Cruz; parents, †Jesus Quichocho and †Ignacia DLG. Quichocho-Pangelinan, her Stepfather, †Mariano M. Pangelinan; Her parents in law, †Vicente T. and †Ana DLC. Cruz, her Stepfather-in-law, †Jesus Manalo; her brothers, sisters and in-laws: †Abel DLG. Quichocho, †Virginia DLG. Quichocho and †Segundo DLC. Castro, †Ramon DLG. and †Rosa K. Quichocho, and †Desimo Atalig, †Juan L. Cruz, †Manuel L. and †Rose N. Cruz, †Rosa C. and +Donicio SN. Reyes, †Maria C. Masga, †Juanita C. and †Nicolas Baleto, and †Henry DLG. San Nicolas; and her Grandchildren: †Brandon Jermaine L. Cruz, †Malcolm Justin P. Maui, †Maria Kelsey Cepeda, †Leilani Therese Cruz Taylor, and †Jeriah Chance Palacios**

Maria's love and memories will forever live in the hearts of her children and family:

Margarita Q. Cruz-Dumlao and Frederick U. Dumlao (Enrica Ignacia C. Dumlao, Raymond A. Cruz and Francine Cruz and children)

Gregorio Q. Cruz and Jane Duku (Karina A. Cruz and children, Mary Therese A. Cruz and children, Cathy and Nicholas Mistishen and children, Gregory A. Cruz and son, Maximus D. Cruz, Emily, Marcus and Olivia Nyamosi)

Henry Q. Cruz (Jayver C. and Marissa Cruz and children, Janice C. and Julian P. Aquiningoc and children)

Francisco Q. Cruz and Jessa Jade S. Cruz (Michael John Lee Pascua and Joel Deliso, Rubilaine S. Cruz and William Reyes and children, Tasha S. Cruz and Antonio S. Castro and children, Franchesca Mia S. Cruz, Francine S. Cruz)

Lillian Cruz Cepeda and Peter B. Cepeda (Peter Jay C. Cepeda and Kimberlyn King and children, Nikki C. Cepeda and Dominic P. Aquiningoc and children, Marynita C. Cepeda and Darius H. Pettis)

Rosita Cruz Palacios and Sylvestre H. Palacios (Kayla C. Palacios, Porsha C. Palacios and children, Courtney P. and Aran Evangelista and children, Regene C. and Trina S. Palacios, Augusta C. Palacios and son, Sylvestre H. Palacios Jr. and Natty Adriano and daughter, Ethan C. Palacios)

Manuela Campbell (Bianca Sutton)

Peter Q. Cruz, Jr. and Maria Magdalena L. Cruz (Peter Mario L. Cruz and Melissa U. Sanchez and children, + Brandon Jermaine L. Cruz, Megan C. and Aaron A. Mendiola and children, Ricky L. Cruz)

Kenneth Q. Cruz and Annette P. Cruz (Asako M. and Michael L. Barcina and children, Develle P. and Janeen K. Maui and children, Kenneth G. Cruz, †Malcolm Justin P. Maui, Jordan G. and Uma Cruz and son, Darshae M. Camacho and Brandon Dela Cruz and son, Darsha M. Camacho and children, Shawn P. Cruz and Avilina Igitol, Zandrea P. Cruz and Patrick Somorang, Travis P. Cruz)

Ryan Dwayne Cruz and Irenia San Nicolas (Francisco SN. Moses, Anita SN. Moses, Aryanni Maria SN. Cruz, Anica Manuela SN. Cruz)

Daughter-in-law: Elena Aldan Cruz

Brother and Sister-in-law: Leon G. Masga; Estella C. San Nicolas; **Godchildren:** David Cing, Elizabeth Linan, Alfredo Q. Castro, and Elisa K. Quichocho

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends.

Mass for the repose soul of †Maria is offered daily at 6:00 p.m. and rosary at 7:00 p.m., at San Jose Church, Tinian.

Funeral services and last respects for our Beloved †Maria will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, beginning at 7:45 a.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian. The mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed with the Rite of Committal at the San Jose Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest with her beloved family.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts and kindness,
 THANK YOU and SI YU'US MA'ASE.

*The Children and families of
 †Pedro Lizama and †Maria DeLeon Guerrero Quichocho Cruz*

Business

Hyatt unveils 'Walk Down Memory Lane' museum

For over four decades, Hyatt Regency Saipan has epitomized vision, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Since opening its doors 43 years ago, it has not only transformed Saipan's hospitality landscape but also established a benchmark for luxury, service, and community engagement.

As we approach our permanent closure on June 30, 2024, we invite you to visit our special exhibit, "Walk Down Memory Lane." Our carefully curated mini museum will feature photos and memorabilia from the hotel's early years to the present day, highlighting the cherished memories and stories that have contributed to our enduring legacy.

The museum will open on Thursday, June 13, 2024, and will run daily until Friday, June 28, 2024. Visitors can

explore the exhibition complimentary daily from 10am to 10pm at the lobby Art Gallery. Through this showcase, we celebrate our enduring reputation for thoughtful care, welcoming guests from around the world across generations, and becoming a sought-after destination for travelers and a preferred venue for events.

Join us in reflecting on the milestones we have achieved, embracing the journey we have undertaken, and honoring our unparalleled dedication to serving with open minds and hearts. Our legacy is built on uplifting the spirits of our guests and colleagues, decade after decade. You're more than welcome!

For more information, please call (670) 234-1234 or visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com. (PR)

Singapore Airlines is offering compensation to passengers on flight that hit extreme turbulence

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Singapore Airlines said Tuesday it has offered compensation to passengers of a flight that hit extreme turbulence last month, in a rare case that killed one passenger and injured dozens.

The Boeing 777 jet, carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew from London to Singapore, ran into sudden turbulence over the Irrawaddy basin on May 20, hurling people and items around the cabin. The plane diverted to Thailand.

A 73-year-old British man died of a suspected heart attack and dozens were hospitalized including those with spinal, brain and bone or organ damages. Nineteen people remained hospitalized in Bangkok.

Singapore Airlines said it has offered \$10,000 in compensation for passengers with minor injuries.

"For those who sustained more serious injuries from the incident, we have invited them to discuss a compensation offer to meet each of their specific circumstances when they feel well and ready to do so," it said in a statement.

Those medically assessed to have sustained serious injuries, requiring long-term medical care and

requesting financial assistance will receive an advance payment of \$25,000 for their immediate needs, it said. "This will be part of the final compensation that these passengers will receive," it said.

The airline said it will also provide full air fare refunds to all passengers on the flight, including those without any injuries. All passengers will also receive delay compensation in accordance with European Union or U.K. regulations, it said.

The airline added that it had already given all passengers 1,000 Singapore dollars (\$739) each for their immediate needs, covered medical expenses of injured passengers, and arranged for their family members and loved ones to fly up to Bangkok where requested.

A preliminary investigation by Singapore's Transport Ministry said the plane went through huge swings in g-force in less than five seconds, likely causing the injuries to people who weren't buckled into their seats. It said the jet dropped 178 feet (54 meters) in less than one second, which "likely resulted in the occupants who were not belted up to become airborne" before falling back down.

Life & Style

Michael Mosley reached millions by being his own guinea pig

RHODES, Greece (AP)—Dr. Michael Mosley was his own guinea pig.

In the name of science, the British television host put his body to the test by ingesting tape worms, injecting snake venom and letting leeches suck his blood.

What didn't kill him made him more popular and he reached millions through BBC programs like "Trust Me, I'm a Doctor," other appearances on TV and radio, and through bestselling diet books.

In the end, his death came during a hike in the blazing sun on the Greek island where he was vacationing.

Greek police said Monday there was no sign of foul play, though an autopsy was underway to find the cause.

Here are some things to know about Mosley:

He was steps away from reaching a beach

Mosley, 67, was found dead Sunday, four days after he went missing on the island of Symi.

His wife said he took the

wrong route on what was supposed to be a short walk to the next town and appeared to have collapsed.

The path would have taken him over or alongside a steep unforgiving slope littered with rocks and no shelter from heat that hit 37 Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit).

His body was found within a few dozen steps of the water.

"He almost managed to reach his destination," Lefteris Papakaloudoukas, the mayor of Symi told Greek Alpha television. "It was only another 10 meters (33 feet) to the beach. But that must be when his strength left him."

Dr. Clare Bailey Mosley said her family took comfort knowing her husband almost made it to safety.

"He did an incredible climb, took the wrong route and collapsed where he couldn't be easily seen by the extensive search team," she said in a statement.

The banker who became a doctor

Production designer K.K. Barrett and producer Jennifer Fox. All will join the likes of Ava DuVernay, Lou Diamond Phillips, Whoopi Goldberg, Jason Reitman, Ruth E. Carter and Jason Blum on the 55-person board representing the organization's 19 branches.

As of this election, representation of those belonging to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group increased from 25% to 27%. Female repre-



"I shouted out: 'Blimey! There's a tapeworm in me!' The other diners looked very surprised," he said. "I was delighted, but at the same time, it was rather horrible."

When he was diagnosed with stage 2 diabetes in 2012, Mosley turned to health science and developed a diet that beat the diagnosis and became the basis for one of his books.

He later popularized intermittent fasting and low-carb meals through his 2013 book "The Fast Diet," which he co-authored with journalist Mimi Spencer, that proposed the so-called "5:2 diet" to minimize calories two days a week while eating healthily the other five.

His "Just One Thing" radio series launched in 2021 advocated simple changes that could transform health and wellbeing.

"I remember him as a bright spark who although now sadly extinguished, will live on through his influential 'Just One Thing,'" said Mark Miodownik, a materials science professor at University College London, who had worked with Mosley. "Science has lost one of its best and most influential communicators. His warmth and connection to the audience was remarkable."

Tireless search from the air, ground and water

The search for Mosley began when he didn't return after leaving his wife and friends and going for a walk from Agios Nikolaos beach near where he was staying.

Searchers on foot, divers in the water, helicopters and drones from above and parties combing the shore from boats spent four days looking for Mosley.

CCTV footage that was believed to be the last known sighting him had shown him walking through a village with a black umbrella overhead to protect himself from the sun.

But footage released Monday appeared to show him scrambling down a rock slope next to a fence and falling out of view where his body was later found.

On Sunday, a boat with the mayor and a group of journalists was scanning the rugged slope when a cameraman saw something dark among the rocks.

The mayor took a photo of the camera display and zoomed in.

"It has a good resolution," he said. "It was the missing man."

Ilias Tsavaris, a bar manager at the Agia Marina, said he scrambled up the hillside after getting a call from the boat telling him to confirm the sighting.

"When I walked up I saw something like a body," he said. "You don't see a dead body everyday, it is not a warzone, it's summer, you are supposed to have fun and swimming."

Clare Bailey Mosley thanked the people of Symi for their tireless search for a man they didn't know.

"Some of these people on the island, who hadn't even heard of Michael, worked from dawn till dusk unasked," she said.

Organization behind the Oscars elects board of governors for 2024-25 term

The organization behind the Oscars elected over a dozen individuals to its board of governors, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Monday. The 2024-2025 board of governors include both first-timers, like director Patricia Cardoso, and veterans like Rita Wilson, Warner Bros. co-chair and CEO Pam Abdy and composer Lesley Barber.

Those elected to the board for the first time include pro-

duction designer K.K. Barrett and producer Jennifer Fox. All

will join the likes of Ava DuVernay, Lou Diamond Phillips, Whoopi Goldberg, Jason Reitman, Ruth E. Carter and Jason Blum on the 55-person board representing the organization's 19 branches.

As of this election, representation of those belonging to an underrepresented racial or ethnic group increased from 25% to 27%. Female repre-

sentation remained static from last year at 53%.

They help oversee the academy's strategic and financial matters and vote on policies like memberships and awards. The most significant recent change was the announcement that they would add an award for casting directors for films released in 2025 and beyond. The board of governors also decides who will be honored with honorary Oscar statuettes each year

at the untelevised event known as the Governors Awards.

The organization is riding high after a successful Oscars ceremony that was widely well-received and saw a boost in viewership. Last month the academy also announced a \$500 million fundraising campaign to ensure long-term, global support for its Oscar prizes, museum and educational programming in view of its 100th anniversary in 2028. (AP)

Wife prepares to run off with husband's best man

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "George" for 35 years. I was pregnant when I married. We had dated only five months. We came from families that believed you had to "do the right thing" and get married. I love my husband, but never as deeply as I thought I should.

I had feelings for someone else ("Dennis") before I got married, but we were always in different relationships when we'd see each other. He was my husband's best man at our wedding, and they were friends for many years. He moved away and we had not seen each other for 25 years. Dennis and I recently reconnected, and when we first saw each other, it was like I was hit by a truck full of emotions.

Dennis makes me feel ways I never felt before. We have long talks about how much we missed each other. We can tell each other anything. I'm the happiest I have ever been in my life, but once again, things are complicated. I still live with my husband, although I'm in the process of moving out as soon as I can. Dennis has to take care of his mother and can't just walk off.

We want to be together. We have never done anything more than hug and share passionate kisses. George will be hurt, but should I keep putting my happiness last just to please someone else? When do I deserve to be happy?

ABOUT TO FLEE

DEAR ABOUT TO FLEE: You have a right to be happy and so does George. Have you and Dennis been discussing marriage during any of those long talks? Does George know you are planning to move out and why? How does Dennis' mother (who is very much in the picture) feel about his romance with you? How do you plan to support yourself if your romance should not work out?

Be sure you have answers to these questions before you pack your bags, because if you don't, you may find you slammed the door on a satisfactory marriage to a man whose only flaw was that he wasn't Dennis.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband is dying of cancer. I got pregnant shortly before we divorced. I left him because he physically, psychologically and emotionally abused me. I never told him about his son. In fact, I lied and told him the child was someone else's. I did it to protect our child.

Now that my ex is dying, I feel guilty. He never had any other children. Should I tell him he has a son?

FEELING GUILTY IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: That's an interesting question. My first reaction is to let sleeping dogs lie. From your

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

description of your ex-husband, he would have used the child as a pawn to further abuse you. However, you didn't mention whether your son knows who his father is. If he does, he might want to meet him before he expires. This is something only you can decide.

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Orioles beat Rays, 5-2, for 1st 4-game sweep at Tropicana Field

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered on the first pitch, Ryan O’Hearn drove in three runs and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-2 on Monday night to finish their first four-game sweep at Tropicana Field.

Corbin Burns (7-2) allowed two unearned runs and five hits in seven innings as Baltimore improved to 22-10 on the road. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

“To come in and really do everything well, pitch great, play good defense, hit the ball well, it’s tough to beat us,” said Burns, who has given up three runs or fewer in 16 consecutive starts.

Baltimore also swept a four-game set at the Chicago White Sox from May 23-26, making this the first Orioles squad to sweep a pair of four-game series in the same season since 1987.

“Going on the road and sweep a team four (games), no matter what the record, is super hard to do in the major leagues,” Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said.

James McCann also homered for Baltimore, which leads the majors with 104. It’s the most homers through the first 65 games of a season in Orioles history.

Alex Jackson went deep for the Rays, who have dropped 13 of 17 at home and are 31-35 overall.

“Not good. Not what we wanted,” Rays manager Kevin Cash said. “We’ve got to get over it real quick.”

Tampa Bay has lost eight straight home games to AL East opponents, equaling a franchise record, and hasn’t been last in the division this late into a year since the end of



YANKEES 4, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Carlos Rodón pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning in his return to the mound where he hit his low point last September, winning his seventh straight start and leading the New York Yankees over Kansas City.

Juan Soto rejoined the Yankees lineup after missing a three-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers because of left forearm inflammation. He went 1 for 3 with a run and a walk as the designated hitter.

AL-best New York (47-21) won for the 10th time in 13 games and improved to 15-1 against the AL Central. Aaron Boone got his 556th victory, tying Billy Martin for seventh among Yankees managers.

PADRES 6, ATHLETICS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. homered to extend his career-best hitting streak to 16 games, the longest current streak in the majors, and Dylan Cease won for the first time in six starts as San Diego beat Oakland.

Jake Cronenworth also homered for the Padres, who have hit multiple homers in four straight games.

The A’s have lost nine of their last 12 games and are a season-worst 16 games under .500.

GIANTS 4, ASTROS 3, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Austin Slater lined the game-winning single into left field with one out in the 10th inning, rallying San Francisco from two runs down in the inning to beat Houston.

Slater’s second career game-winning hit came off Rafael Montero (1-2) after he also had one on April 8, 2022,

against the Marlins.

Randy Rodríguez (2-1) recorded the final out of the 10th for the win.

Houston had gone ahead by two runs in the top half on a sacrifice fly by Victor Caratini that scored runner Joey Looperido from second base and Alex Bregman’s RBI single.

The Astros challenged that Trey Cabbage was called out at first on a bunt against Erik Miller to begin the 10th and the call was overturned on replay review for a single.

Montero started the 10th and immediately gave up Brett Wisely’s RBI single then Heliot Ramos singled when shortstop Jeremy Pena had to reach and booted his skipping grounder. Patrick Bailey followed with an RBI single that made it 3-3.

MARINERS 8, WHITE SOX 4

SEATTLE (AP)—Cal Raleigh hit a game-winning grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning and Seattle stormed back from a four-run deficit in the eighth to beat the Chicago White Sox.

Raleigh’s walk-off drive came against Jordan Leisure (0-2) after the Mariners scored four times in the eighth to tie it.

Dominic Canzone led off with a homer against starter Erick Fedde before Michael Kopech gave up three runs and four hits. Mitch Hamner knocked in two with a bases-loaded single, and Luke Raley drove in the tying run with a bunt single.

Seattle’s offense struggled early, as both pitchers got off to strong starts. Fedde allowed just three hits over his first five shutout innings, and Mariners starter Logan Gilbert permitted just two hits in the same span.

2016 season.

O’Hearn put Baltimore up 4-2 on a two-run double in the fifth against Ryan Pepiot (4-3). He made it 5-2 with a seventh-inning RBI single off Kevin Kelly to complete a nine-pitch at-bat. Both hits came with two outs.

“He can really grind out an at-bat,” Hyde said. “He gets big hits for us constantly.”

Henderson’s major league-best seventh leadoff homer this year went 430 feet to center field. Last season’s AL Rookie of the Year has 21 homers, second in the majors to New York Yankees star Aaron Judge (24).

O’Hearn and Henderson both had three hits. Henderson scored three times for the second consecutive game.

Tampa Bay got two unearned runs in the second

when second baseman Jordan Westburg dropped José Caballero’s routine popup with two outs, and the light-hitting Jackson hit his first big league homer in almost three years.

It was Jackson’s third hit in 47 at-bats this season, and first longball since going deep against Dan Winkler of the Chicago Cubs in August 2021.

McCann tied it at 2 on his third-inning drive.

Pepiot allowed four runs and nine hits over six innings. He struck out nine.

BREWERS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Colin Rea allowed just three hits while working seven innings for his longest outing in eight years, leading Milwaukee to a victory over Toronto.

Jackson Chourio and Willy

Adames went deep for the Brewers, who had gone without a homer in their last five games. Milwaukee’s last homer before Monday came a week ago when Rhys Hoskins went deep against his former team in a 3-1 loss at Philadelphia.

Rea (5-2) threw 85 pitches, struck out four and allowed one run, on a third-inning homer by Alejandro Kirk.

Spencer Horwitz’s two-out single brought the tying run to the plate in the ninth before Brewers second baseman Brice Turang made an outstanding play to end the game. Turang went far to his right to field a Vladimir Guerrero Jr. grounder up the middle and throw him out at first.

Trevor Megill worked the ninth for his 10th save in 11 opportunities.



New York Mets Francisco Lindor smiles during a workout day at the London stadium in London, Friday, June 7, 2024. New York Mets will play games against Philadelphia Phillies at the stadium on June 8 and June 9.

years. There’s another series planned for 2026. A proposed series in Paris for next summer was shelved.

“I’d do it every year if we

could,” said Phillies manager Rob Thomson, who visited a Philly-themed bar. “It’s been a great experience. Tough loss today, but it was a great ball-

game for fans to watch.”

HIGH FLYERS

The Phillies will have crossed 18 different time zones in 17 days when they land in Boston. The team left May 23 for a road trip that included stops in Denver and San Francisco before the London trip.

“So now going back what we’re trying to do is if you want to sleep, sleep early in the flight, maybe for an hour or hour and a half, then get up and stay awake until we get there,” Thomson said.

NEW CRICKET FAN

MLB is here to expand its fan base, but another ball-and-bat game has picked up some fans, too.

“I watched a lot of cricket

while I was here. It was on TV the whole time,” McNeil said. “My wife got into it, I got into it. I think I’d be a heck of a cricket player. Being able to put it in play and hit it anywhere, I think that would be a lot of fun.”

The TV coverage was of the cricket T20 World Cup being co-hosted by the United States and West Indies. India was playing Pakistan in Westbury, New York, on Sunday. The United States scored a major upset over Pakistan on Thursday.

“I was going to try to see a match,” McNeil said. “I have no idea about the rules. I’d love to learn more, but it was pretty exciting to watch. I would love to try it. Hitting looks fun. You can hit it far and anywhere you want.”

Celts traded for Holiday with NBA Finals in mind; now they're 2 wins away from title

BOSTON (AP)—This moment is exactly why the Boston Celtics went out and got Jrue Holiday.

When president of basketball operations Brad Stevens and the rest of the front office sat down after last season to piece together their next steps following Boston's Eastern Conference finals loss to Miami, a question hovered over them.

How much were they willing to shake up the core of a team that had lost in the NBA Finals in 2022 and then came up a game short of returning the following season?

In the end they opted to swing big, trading longtime point guard Marcus Smart as part of the deal that netted 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis. Then, after Milwaukee traded Holiday to Portland to get Damian Lillard, the Celtics pounced, dealing former NBA Sixth Man of the Year Malcolm Brogdon and big man Robert Williams III to get Holiday.

The bold moves have proven to be exactly what the Celtics needed, helping produce a 64-win regular season, a romp through the first three rounds of the playoffs and a 2-0 lead over the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals.

For the defensive-minded Holiday, whose defense limited Kyrie Irving, combined with a 26-point, 11-rebound effort helped Boston salvage its 105-98 Game 2 victory, it's the latest example that Holiday is where he is meant to be.

"I think that this is what was supposed to happen. And I'm



AP

Fans celebrate a 3-pointer by Boston Celtics' Jrue Holiday (4) against the Dallas Mavericks during the second half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals, Thursday, June 6, 2024, in Boston.

glad that I'm here and I'm glad that I'm in this moment," Holiday said prior to the start of the Finals.

"(Celtics coach) Joe Mazzulla has talked about that a lot, especially this season is being in the moment, and that's what I've tried to do."

Part of what's made Holiday so effective for the Celtics is the 33-year-old's willingness to adapt his game to fill whatever his team has needed this season.

A No. 3 scoring option in

Milwaukee behind Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton during the Bucks' 2020-21 championship season, Holiday has accepted being the fourth or fifth option in Boston. His 12.5 points per game average this regular season was the lowest since his rookie season.

But there have been times, such as in Game 2, when Dallas doubled up on All-Star Jayson Tatum, put more pressure on Jaylen Brown or Porzingis struggled, when Holiday had

to increase his output.

He's done it, while maintaining intensity on the defensive end this season. He was selected to the NBA All-Defensive second team. It was the sixth time he was picked for the first or second team in his career.

Holiday believes it's a by-product of the collective unity the team has been building throughout the season.

"I think when you sacrifice together and you do something together, it brings you

closer," he said. "I think being able to go through wins and losses and to build something, it means a lot. ... From (roster spots) 1 to 15, somebody's sacrificed something."

Part of what's helped ease Holiday's transition to Boston has been the familiarity he already had with Tatum, with whom he played alongside on the 2020 U.S. Olympic basketball team that captured the gold medal during the Olympics in Tokyo.

Tatum said that relationship

made periodic check-ins he had at times this season with Holiday easier.

"I would just check in or always remind him to be yourself and, we're going to need you in big moments, obviously like (Game 2)," Tatum said.

It's allowed Holiday to play to his strengths, most notably his ability to bring a measure of calm to the court in Mazzulla's controlled chaos.

Holiday's also been able to provide stability in crunch time for a team that in recent playoff runs sometimes wilted in those moments, often trying to lean on one-on-one play or committing turnovers.

And while a player such as Smart was a dominant alpha on the court, Holiday knows what it's like to play alongside a star such as Antetokounmpo, and coax the best out of them.

Asked to imagine what position the Celtics might be in without Holiday on the roster, Tatum didn't want to entertain the thought.

"Good thing we don't have to find out," he said.

No matter what happens over the remainder of the Finals, this won't be a one season-and-done stop for Holiday, who signed a four-year extension in April.

"From here on it's like—I'm supposed to be here," Holiday said. "And I'm supposed to be with my teammates. And we're supposed to do this together."

But there's only one way he'll feel as if his arrival in Boston can be deemed a success.

"It's been great and the journey's been awesome, but at the end of the day, the job is not done," he said.

Analysis: Chance was there for Dallas in Game 2, but Mavs now face even tougher road vs. Boston

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Game 2 provided Dallas with a huge chance.

The Mavericks could have flown back to Dallas with the home-court advantage in the NBA Finals. They could have tied the title series at a game apiece. They could have put the heavily favored Boston Celtics into what would have been their most precarious spot of the season.

Instead, they're down 2-0—and now the odds of pulling this off just got a whole lot longer.

They missed eight free throws, gave up 21 points off turnovers, didn't take advantage of an uncharacteristic 3-point clankfest from the Celtics—10 for 39—plus wasted another big effort from Luka Doncic on a night where he battled through ankle, rib, and knee issues and still did

whatever he wanted. They were better than they were in Game 1. That said, they still weren't good enough. Final score: Boston 105, Dallas 98, and the Celtics are now two wins away from what would be their record-setting 18th NBA championship.

Which isn't likely. Possible, sure. Likely, no.

"The journey to this point has been great, but we still know being up 2-0 means nothing," said Celtics guard Jrue Holiday, who led Boston with 26 points in Game 2. "Job's not done. We have to do whatever it takes."

Doncic had the 50th known triple-double in NBA Finals history—32 points, 11 rebounds, 11 assists. He also had eight turnovers and went just 4 for 8 from the foul line, two reasons why he pointed the finger of blame directly at himself after the game.

"At the end of the day,

we've got to make some more shots," Doncic said. "I think my turnovers and my missed free throws cost us the game. So, I've got to do way better in those two categories. But at the end of the day, we've got to make shots to win the game."

Dallas tied a season-low with six 3-pointers, but that wasn't what the Mavs should lament most when they review how the game went from beyond the arc.

They were 11-1 in these playoffs when holding teams below 38% on 3s; make it 11-2 now, since Boston shot 25.6% in Game 2 and won. The Celtics aren't likely to struggle that much from deep too often.

"Every game we lose, it's a missed opportunity for us," Doncic said.

Dallas was right there, which will make the loss

hurt even more. It still took a pair of unlikely plays by the Celtics—a 34-foot, beat-the-clock 3-pointer by Payton Pritchard to end the third quarter, and a chaseshot block by Derrick White in the final minute of the fourth on a play where it seemed like Washington got fouled on a dunk try—for Boston to wrap Game 2 up.

"That's what Payton Pritchard does," White said of the deep heave.

In the biggest moments, Boston found a way. That all said, it's not over. Comebacks from 2-0 down in the NBA Finals aren't unprecedented.

The last team to lead the finals 2-0 was Phoenix in 2021; the Suns didn't win another game in that series against Giannis Antetokounmpo, Holiday and Milwaukee.

Golden State led Cleveland 2-0 in 2016; Cleveland won

in seven, something that Kyrie Irving will surely remind his Dallas teammates of now since he hit the 3-pointer that basically sealed that title for LeBron James and the Cavs. And nobody needs to tell Dallas that 2-0 leads guarantee nothing; the Mavericks had that lead against Dwyane Wade and Miami in 2006, the city was planning parade routes, and the Heat won the next four games for their first championship.

"We are not down," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "We're positive. This is a group that believes. We didn't get an opportunity to get a split or win two here on the road. Now Boston held serve. Now we've got to go home and hold serve."

To his credit, he made it all sound very simple. But he knows the task is much harder now.

Pale James tops Saipan Pacific Lions Club golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Father James Balajadia dusted off his old golf clubs and won the 3rd Annual Saipan Pacific Lions Club Golf Tournament last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The pastor of Kristo Rai Parish and Santa Remedios Parish shot a net score of 68.20 in the double peoria tournament. The former CNMI junior golfer scored a gross score of 73 following 37 in the front nine and 36 in the back nine. He was given a 4.80 handicap for the tourney.

"I played well, shot a gross score of 1-over 73. It just so happened that I was able to win the double peoria system as well. It worked out in my favor, but even if it did not, I'm glad I played well," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Balajadia said his worst hole was hole No. 14 and his best performance was hole No. 10.

"I bombed a drive and had 15 yards left to the green but made a bogey on hole No. 14. As Joe 'Kamikaze' Camacho would say, 'nice drive.' But my best hole was hole No. 10. I wasn't comfortable with my 9 iron, and I was disciplined to back away and use my 8 iron to hit the green and made a double breaking putt for a birdie. I didn't make double bogey or worse," he said.

He then dedicated his victory to "God always first, my parents, and



Kristo Rai Parish and Santa Remedios Parish priest Fr. James Balajadia, right, with golf buddies in this undated photo.

all the single ladies ages 60-70 who always help in the churches."

On his love for golf, Balajadia quoted pro golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez. "He once said, 'golf is the most fun you can have with your clothes on.' Golf is like life. We each have to play our own game and stop comparing our game with someone else. We have ups and downs, but right now you have the choice to move forward. One bad swing is better than a having a bad attitude. We try to improve everyday."

Before becoming a priest, Balajadia was an up-and-coming golfer and learned the sport under the aus-

pices of golf legends Jeff Taylor, Eddie Peter, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan, among others.

Second place went to Pencheng Wu with his net 70, who beat third place Wil Maui in a scorecard tiebreaker after both players finished with an identical net score after 18 holes.

Freddy Salavarria and Das Krishnam rounded out the Top 5 with also an identical net score of 70.40 with the former nosing out the latter via the proverbial scorecard tiebreak. A special award also went to Richard Lizama with the second-to-the-last highest score.

taking the time here tonight to have a great sendoff and to give everyone best wishes in the Micronesian Games. Let's go Team Marianas!"

Afterwards, there was a photo-op for the athletes and the sponsors and NMSA board members, then families and supporters came out to take selfies and group photos with the team.

The 22 sponsors of the team are Joteten Daidai Foundation, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Marianas Express Lines Ltd. as platinum sponsors.

Triple J Enterprise, E-Land, Take-Care Insurance, and D&Q International Distributors are gold sponsors.

RNV Construction, Bank of Guam, IT&E, Dial-Rent-to-Own, Chinese Association of Saipan, Black Construction Corp., GPPC, and Mattson are silver sponsors.

And P&A Corporation, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, McDonald's Jose and Ruri Foundation, Y.K. Corp., Zoom Cafe, Artman Corp., and I Love Saipan are bronze sponsors.

ing \$20,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation that's currently pending, which went mostly to the airfare of the 110 delegates.

He said of the Micro Games, "It is a very good opportunity for our athletes... The eight national federations have been training for about six months to a year."

Tan added that NMSA has 16 national federations, but with the addition of women's softball, it is now 17. With that, he is grateful to all of them.

He also acknowledged that Nick Gross, Public School System Athletics Program director, is working hard with interscholastic sports which is the grassroots that help develop athletes.

And, not only is he happy with the domestic leagues, but mentioned that along with the Micronesian Games, teams have also competed internationally last year in Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

He then said, "We just want to thank every single one of you for

and led his team to the silver in the overall team awards.

In all divisions, there were a total of 728 athletes—389 elementary school participants, 174 middle school athletes, and 165 high school competitors.

The event was emceed by Public School System's Athletics Program director Nick Gross, while the awards were presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Board of Education member Gregory Borja, and Northern Marianas Athletes' Elias Rangamar.

Camacho, in his remarks after the ceremony, said, "The Public School System is really grateful for the op-

portunity to partner with McDonald's and all the fine contributions that you had over the years... for the parents who've come, we really appreciate the support in making sure that your kids are competing in this level at least. Thanks to Nick for arranging this and the many other things we have across the Public School System and making sure we have opportunities for the kids when it comes to athletics and interscholastic competition."

Results of the elementary school 12U/9U boys/girls division MVPs will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Nearest to the pin winners were Carl Hocog, William Retardo, and Wan Sub Lee.

Saipan Pacific Lions Club extended their appreciation to the organizing Fil-Taga Golfers Association, headed by Tony Cabrera, Ruben Avendano, Miguel Cruz, Jr., and Dan Ganacias. They also thanked Tom Palikkum, Tony Satur, and event sponsors for their substantial support, both in-kind and monetary, which significantly contributed to the tournament's triumph. The awards ceremony emcees were Melanie M. Galapon and Tony Cabrera.

The list of sponsors include the following: KWAW FM Radio, LCI District 204 governor Blanca Imbo, Saturnino Banting, Elizabeth/Sancho Escobar, Pacific Homes Appliances/Toshiba, Marianas Insurance Underwriters, Inc., TSL Foundation, Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, Monito Co, Romeo Villaluna, Ronaldo Hidalgo, Herbie Perez, Bongbong Martinez, Blossoms Flower Shop, JET Holdings, Inc., Cargo Express, ChowTime, Coca-Cola, Coral Ocean Point, Crown Plaza

WRESTLERS

From page 16

ing freestyle, Greco-Roman, and beach wrestling and competition will take place on June 23 and 24.

The last time the NMI competed in wrestling was in the 2006 Micronesian Games when they won five of 42 medals.

According to Bauer, Babauta has wrestled for the CNMI before and has earned multiple medals. Greene, who is from Idaho, is still in high school but was seeded No. 3 in Idaho's 2024 state tournament and shows promise to hit the podium.

With how their training is going, Bauer said that Babauta is training with him and a few other Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation members. "We are currently using the beach at Crowne Plaza for beach wrestling and the mats at Trench Tech for freestyle and Greco-Roman until we can acquire funding to purchase true wrestling mats," said Bauer in an interview.

While for Greene, Bauer said, he is just coming off of his latest season, so he's been training consistently on the mat, so "we're looking for good things from him across all three styles."

As for Bauer's expectations of the wrestlers, he said for Greene, "I think freestyle and Greco he's really familiar with. The beach style is going to be new for him but again, with his experience, and he's training, he'll be able to transition out on the beach. So, I'm looking for big things from him."

For Babauta, Bauer said, "This is not new to him. He medaled back in the 2006 Micronesian Games, so he's been on this stage before. We've been working out and getting after it as best as we can as of late. Our practice partners are minimal, it's really just me and Ryan going after it, but I think he's been knocking the rust off across all three styles. The freestyle and beach is what we've been concentrating on, but he's also going to be a force to be reckoned with in the Greco scene as well."

Babauta, for his part, thanked Bauer for helping bring back wrestling

Resort Saipan, Delta Management, Inc., KL Carr, Saipan Shipping, Inc., MJ Corp., Cecilia Pagapular, Aqua Resort Club, D&Q Saipan, Genpro International, Inc., Marianas Printing, Inc., Himawari, Hong Electric, Alicia Barbo, Donata Fronda, Delta Management, Inc., Gree Air Conditioner Saipan, Gold Ribbon Bake Shop & Restaurant, Hardt Eye Clinic, Herman's Modern Bakery, LN Supermarket, Marianas Medical Supplies, MARPAC, Kanto #10, Miguel Cruz Jr., Marie Javier, National Office Supply, New Paradise Flower Shop, JTM Snack & BBQ Grill, Relox Bar, Saint Trading, Inc., Saipan Ice & Water Co., Star Water Co., Inc., Trader's Insurance Co., Inc., Wushin Corp., Pacific Saipan, Inc. Dba One Pacific Distributors, YCO Hardware, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Kautz Glass, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Multiline Supply, Franco Santos, Ahbhu Auto Care, Sandra and Christopher Manalo, Ahbhu Auto Care Employees, Saipan Invincible Lions Club president Ian B. Manalo and member volunteers, and Kim "Sang" Sanghoon.

to the CNMI to showcase what athletes can do in the sport of wrestling against other wrestlers in the Pacific.

"With a little less than a month away, the jitters are slowly fading because I'm growing more confident in my wrestling thanks to my coach Rick. I'm looking forward to representing the CNMI, my family last name, and showcasing the hard work I've been putting in for this event," said Babauta.

His goal, he said, is to not only bring back medals for the CNMI, but to inspire the youth that, "if you want something, you have to be willing to put in the work. Wrestling in my opinion is a great sport to teach you discipline, humility, and helps create great character."

As for Greene, he is a 17-year-old from Idaho who is the son of Kristine Attao and James Greene. His grandparents are Vicente and Elizabeth Attao and Jeff Greene and Gina Rickman.

He said he heard about the CNMI wrestling team from his aunt, Catherine Attao-Toves.

"I wanted to join the team because of the great opportunity and to compete and represent my grandpa and family. This opportunity is definitely once in a lifetime, I've never done anything like this and believe I will really enjoy and remember this opportunity. I'm looking forward to new opportunities and environments of wrestling. I'm looking to win and compete in different levels of wrestling," said Greene, who arrived just before the Team NMI sendoff ceremony last Monday.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I am in the mat room working my craft, every other day I'm working out on my own, lifting, running... I've accomplished many things so far, from winning many tournaments, to placing at state or even competing at the high levels. I want to thank my Aunty for providing me with this opportunity, my mom for being there alongside my wrestling journey, my grandma for supporting me and traveling to my competitions, my teammates and coaches that have helped me. I would not be where I am without my family, friends, teammates, and coaches.

ANTONETTE

From page 16

have brought us here together. We all have pushed our limits, faced challenges head-on, experienced setbacks but undoubtedly have grown stronger with every step. Stay confident, stay positive, and stay focused. Trust in your training, trust in your abilities, trust in your team and most importantly, trust in yourself."

She added, "As we head off to the 2024 Micronesian Games, let's compete with integrity, honor, and pride. No matter the outcome, let's compete with a spirit that is fierce yet kind, determined and confident, yet humble."

She also thanked the team's coaches and support systems, and their families and friends.

For Tan's remarks, he thanked the many sponsors of the team and said that without them, there would be no team for the Games. He said that overall, they raised \$179,000, includ-

ADDALEE

From page 16

Taflinger presumably has the best performance by amassing 66 individual points by collecting her five gold medals, which contributed to her team's overall title.

In the 14U boys division, Agape Christian School's Raffy Cai was the 14U male MVP. His medal haul was a gold in the 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m, and in the 4x400m. He also bagged silver in the 400m, and bronze in the 4x100m.

Cai collected 55 individual points



Orioles beat
Rays, 5-2, for 1st
4-game sweep
at Tropicana
Field
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Pale James
tops Saipan
Pacific
Lions Club
golf tourney
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team NMI poses for a group photo with their sponsors, delegates, and Northern Marianas Sports Association members during the team's sendoff ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

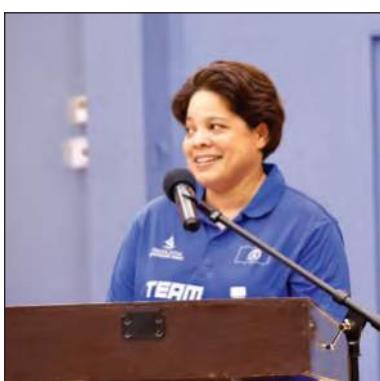
Antonette is flagbearer for Micro Games

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

National team weightlifter Antonette Labausa was chosen as Team NMI's flagbearer for the 2024 Micronesian Games that will be held in Majuro, Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24.

The hour-long sendoff ceremony was attended by the over 100 members of the delegation, sponsors, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and NMSA members, and family, friends, and supporters of the team that filled up the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Monday night.

The delegation's chef de mission, NMSA general secretary Valerie Hofsneider, introduced each team member in all the 10 sports represented, the team's many sponsors, and the team's flagbearer.



LEIGH GASES
Valerie Hofsneider, Team NMI chef de mission for the 2024 Micronesian Games and Northern Marianas Sports Association general secretary, speaks during the team's sendoff ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

Team NMI flagbearer for the 2024 Micronesian Games, Antonette Labausa, poses with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang during the team's sendoff ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

'Wrestlers are up for the challenge'



LEIGH GASES

From right, Team NMI wrestling team Jason Tarkong, wrestler James Greene Jr., wrestler Ryan Babauta, wrestler Aden Attao (who's on island for vacation and is not on the team), and coach Rick Bauer pose for a group photo during the 2024 Micronesian Games Team NMI sendoff ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI wrestling team is set for the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands—and despite a small delegation and a long hiatus of the sport in the islands, their coach said the athletes are up for the challenge and are going to represent the NMI well.

The team is made up of wrestlers Ryan Babauta and mainland fly-in

James Greene Jr., with head coach Rick Bauer and team manager Jason Tarkong.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Aden Attao were supposed to compete as well, but due to their own reasons, they won't be able to make it. However, Bauer said of Babauta and Greene, "We're anticipating really good things and are excited for the challenge."

The Micronesian Games is host
See WRESTLERS on Page 15

Games, then three gold medals in the 2018 Micronesian Games, three silver medals in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, silver in 2022 Oceania Champs, gold in 2023 Guam National Championships, gold in the 2023 Marianas

Cup, and recently, a bronze medal in the 2024 Oceania Championships.

In Labausa's closing remarks, she said, "My fellow athletes, in this moment, we recognize all our hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and dreams that

See ANTONETTE on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Team NMI flagbearer for the 2024 Micronesian Games, Antonette Labausa, waves the CNMI flag during the team's sendoff ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Addalee, Raffy are middle school athletics MVPs



LEIGH GASES

Raffy Cai, U14 male MVP, poses with his award and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, second right, Board of Education member Greg Borja, second left, Northern Marianas Athletics' Elias Rangamar, second left, and a McDonald's Saipan employee, left, during the awards ceremony of the 2023-2024 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships awards ceremony at the main McDonald's restaurant in Chalan Kiya last Thursday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics, the Public School System, and McDonald's Saipan and Guam awarded the top athletes of the 2023-2024 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last month.

In an awards ceremony held at

the main McDonald's restaurant in Chalan Kiya last Thursday, MVP trophies were given to the top performers of the high school 18U, middle school 14U, and elementary school 9U/12U divisions.

The middle school 14U female MVP, Saipan International School's Addalee Tafinger, won gold in the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m, and in the 4x100m.

See ADDALEE on Page 15